ADMINISTRATIVE - INTERNAL USE ONLY

26 October 1982

MEMORANDUM FOR: STAT

Chief, Operations Group
Foreign Broadcast Information Service

SUBJECT: Media Coverage and Item Selection

        1. Our failure to predict the recent resignation of Prime
Minister Suzuki has prompted us to reassess collection
requirements for media analysis and reporting on Japanese
politics. We value the FBIS Daily Report for timely coverage of
fast-moving political events and we cannot stress too strongly
the need for the Okinawa Bureau to include political commentary
on almost a daily basis. In early October YOMIURI SHIMBUN began
reporting on an intensifying campaign within the ruling Liberal
Democratic Party to oust Suzuki. From 4 October through 11
October, these reports described the seriousnesss of the campaign
as the public opposition to Suzuki grew to include the members of
the LDP Supreme Advisory Council and former Prime Minister
Kishi. None of this information appeared in the FBIS Daily
Report. On 12 October, Prime Minister Suzuki announced his
decision not to seek reelection.

        2. While it would not have been sufficient to predict
Suzuki's decision to step down, we believe this information would
have provided us with valuable indicators of the impending
political crisis. For this reason, we recommend that you review
your criteria for media coverage and item selection to provide
more timely coverage of Japanese politics.

                                                                   STAT

                              Chief
                          Japan Branch
                  Office of East Asian Analysis

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SUBJECT

Memo: Sub: Media coverage and item selection

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